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ABSTRACT

A national telephone survey of a representative sample of 901 voters was conducted to measure voter attitudes toward child care and, in particular, the Act for Better Child Care Services (ABC). The survey also explored attitudes toward parental leave. Findings indicated that: (1) a majority of Americans think of child care as an urgent need and express support for governmental initiatives to assure the availability of affordable, high-quality child care; (2) the ABC garners strong support from a wide cross-section of Americans; (3) support for ABC is so strong that it overrides voter concerns about the Federal deficit; (4) most voters believe the ABC would benefit both middle-income and low-income working families; (5) health and safety standards, freedom of choice, training and consumer information are among the most attractive aspects of the ABC; (6) ABC receives greater support than an alternative plan providing tax credits to families with young children; (7) two in three voters prefer ABC to a less ambitious plan; (8) a majority favor a proposal to require employers to permit both mothers and fathers to take up to 10 weeks of optional unpaid leave after the birth or adoption of a child; and (9) two in three voters believe employers should maintain the same level of health insurance benefits for employees on parental leave that they provide working employees. Fourteen tables of data are included. (RH)

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A SURVEY OF AMERICAN VOTER ATTITUDES CONCERNING CHILD CARE SERVICES

Highlights And Key Findings
June, 1988

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Under the joint sponsorship of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the Children's Defense Fund, a national telephone survey among a representative sample of 901 voters was conducted between May 31st and June 5th, 1988. The purpose of the survey was to measure voter attitudes toward the child care issue, and in particular the Act For Better Child Care Services (ABC) now being debated in Congress. In addition, the survey looked at attitudes toward parental leave. The survey was completed under the direction of Marttila & Kiley, Inc.

The results of this survey can be reliably projected to the entire voting population of the continential United States, within a few percentage points. For a dichotomous question that divides the population evenly we can say, with 95% confidence, that the margin of error is no greater than 3.2%.

The following is a summary of the highlights and key findings from the survey.

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1. A majority of Americans think of child care as an urgent need in the country today, and express strong support for governmental initiatives to assure parents and their families of the availability of affordable, quality child care services.

The survey results show that child care attracts almost universal recognition as a contemporary American need, and that the desire for governmental action is shared by all Americans. While the increasing incidence of dual-income households and single parents

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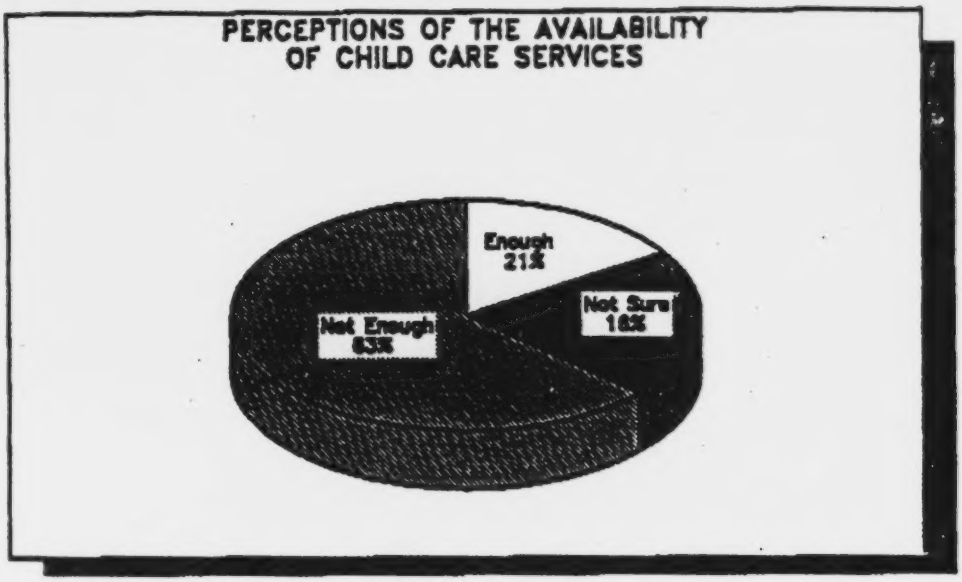
has no doubt increased demand for child care services, support for affordable child care is not limited to the parents of young children. There currently exists a high level of support for increased child care services among voters of all socioeconomic backgrounds.

- o An Important Issue

  Eighty-seven percent of all American voters consider the need for affordable child care to be an important issue today, including 56% who think of it as a very important issue. Not surprisingly women and working mothers are among the most aware of this issue; yet even 85% of all voters who are not raising young children acknowledge child care as an important national issue (Table One).

- o Growing Demand

  The desire for governmental intervention is partly grounded in the widespread acknowledgement that the country does not have enough child care services. Fully 74% of all voters believe it is "difficult" for parents to obtain child care that is both affordable and of good quality (Table Two), and 63% say there simply are not enough child care services available to keep up with the current demand (Table Three).



o Child Care As A Necessity

The survey results show that a vast majority of American voters, 73%, believe working families require affordable child care because it is a financial necessity for both parents to work; only 22% feel the availability of child care services discourages parents from staying home to take care of their children (Table Four).

o The Need For Federal Standards

The creation of federal health and safety standards for child care services is as important a priority as affordability for most Americans. Fully three-in-four voters (75%) feel that the federal government should establish minimal standards of health and safety for child care facilities, rather than leave such standards to individual states (Table

o The Call For Federal Action

A majority of Americans (63%) believe the federal government should develop policies to help make child care services more available and affordable for working families. This point is especially true among working mothers – 83% feel the federal government must take action to assure the availability of child care services – and is also shared by a majority (59%) of Americans who are not raising young children (Table Six).

2. The Act For Better Child Care Services garners strong support from a wide cross section of Americans.

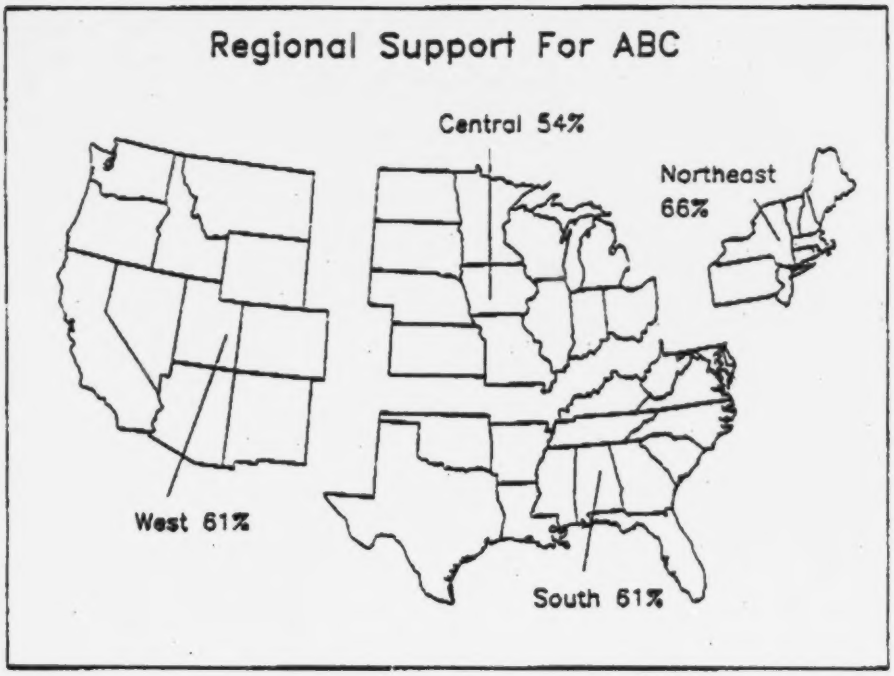
Respondents were read the following description of the Act For Better Child Care, and asked to indicate whether they favored or opposed the measure:

> "One of the child care proposals now before Congress calls for spending two-and-a-half billion dollars in order to help working families meet child care expenses, to increase the supply of child care services, and to improve the quality of existing child care services. Are you inclined to favor or oppose this proposal?"

Fully 60% of all voters favor ABC after hearing this description, versus 32% who oppose the proposal. Support for ABC goes well beyond young, working parents who would be most directed assisted by this measure, and encompasses nearly all Americans.

o ABC Is Supported In Every Region Of The Country

Voter support for the Act For Better Child Care is not bound by geographic regions. Sixty-one percent of all Southern voters favor ABC, as do 66% of those who live in the Northeast; 53% of voters in the Central States; and 61% of all Westerners.



o **Working Mothers And Young Parents**

ABC obtains overwhelming support among working mothers, and the parents of young children. Fully 84% of all working mothers support the Act For Better Child Care, versus just 12% who are opposed. Sixty-nine percent of all parents with children 12 years of age or younger favor ABC, while just 25% do not.

o **Voters Not Raising Young Children Are In Favor Of ABC**

The Act For Better Child Care also garners strong support from voters who are not raising young children. Fully 57% of all voters who do not have children 12 years of age or younger are in favor of ABC, vs. only 35% who oppose the proposal.

o Age

The ABC proposal is supported by all age groups. Voters under 40 years of age favor ABC by a margin of 70% to 24%; 40 to 49 year olds support the bill 58% to 38%; and those older than 50 are in favor of it 50% to 41%.

o Income

Voters of all incomes are in favor of the ABC bill. Respondents whose family income is $35,000 or less support the measure 65% to 29%; those with incomes greater than $35,000 favor it 56% to 35%.

o Socioeconomic Status

A majority of voters at every socioeconomic level are in favor of the Act For Better Child Care. Voters lowest on the socioeconomic scale support ABC 67% to 24%; those with the highest socioeconomic status favor the bill 57% to 34%.

o Political Parties

The ABC proposal is supported by a majority of Democrats and Independents, and a plurality of Republican voters. Democrats favor the Act For Better Child Care by a margin of 70% to 20%. Sixty-one percent of all Independents support the plan, vs. 32% who oppose it. And a plurality of Republican voters (49%) are in favor of ABC, while 47% are opposed.

3. Support for the Act For Better Child Care is so strong that it overrides voter concerns about the federal deficit.

We further probed sensitivity to the cost of the Act For Better Child Care by asking voters to indicate whether the government could afford to invest in the program in light of the federal deficit, notwithstanding the desirable objectives of the plan. Even when presented in this context, a large majority of voters (64%) favor ABC, whereas only 32% do not.

The results show that support for ABC remains solid among all voter groups even when the cost of the program is emphasized. Advocates of the nation's need to invest in ABC, despite the large federal deficit, include Southern voters (64% - 29%); Democrats (76% - 21%); Independents (64% - 32%); Republicans (52% - 44%); and voters who are not parenting young children (61% - 35%). Working mothers continue to voice their support for ABC when asked to take the deficit into consideration by the wide margin of 82% to 16%, and working families indicate the plan should be implemented despite the federal deficit, 66% vs. 31% (Table Eight).

4. Most voters believe the Act For Better Child Care should benefit middle income working families as well as those with low incomes.

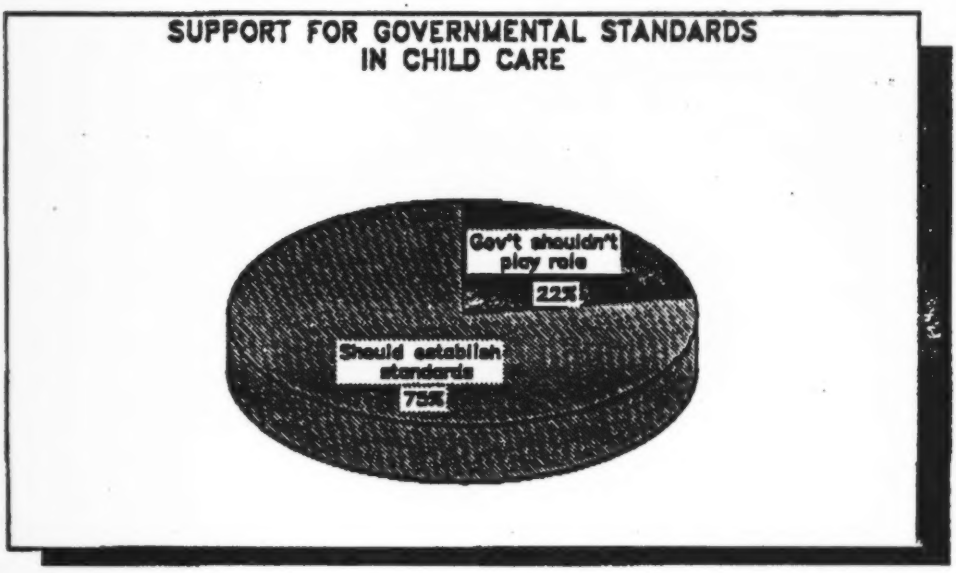
A vast majority of voters support ABC's intent to assist middle income working families as well as those with low incomes. Seventy-three percent of all voters favor helping both middle and low income families obtain affordable child care services; only 17% believe assistance should be limited to families with low incomes. The desire to make child care assistance available to both middle and low income families is shared by voters in the highest socioeconomic category as well as those with low incomes themselves. Sixty-seven percent of the most affluent respondents believe child care

assistance should be provided to middle and low income working families, vs. 21% who feel only low income families should be helped. Among voters with low incomes, 78% voice their support for making both middle and low income working families eligible for child care assistance, while 18% believe assistance should be reserved for low income families only (Table Nine).

5. Health and safety standards, freedom of choice, training and consumer information are among the most attractive aspects of the Act For Better Child Care.

We presented voters with nine separate aspects of the Act For Better Child Care, and asked them to indicate how strongly they supported each one. While each of the aspects was rated favorably, four stand out as having particularly strong appeal to a large majority of voters (Table Ten):

- o Fully three-in-four (75%) voters strongly support ABC's provision for establishing minimal federal standards for health, safety and quality;



- o Seventy-two percent are attracted by the plan's flexibility to give parents the freedom to choose from a variety of approved child care options, including schools, churches, homes and centers (Table 10A);

- o The on-the-job training and worker recruitment aspects of the bill receive the strong support of 63% of all voters; and

- o Informational assistance to consumers to help them locate suitable child care services is a very desirable aspect of ABC for 61% of all voters.

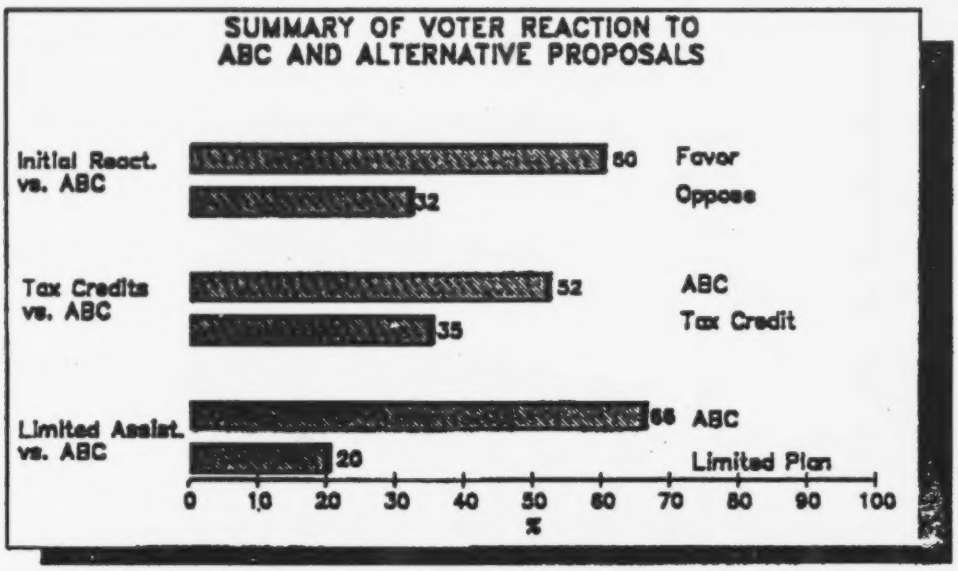
6. The Act For Better Child Care receives greater preference among a majority of voters than an alternative plan to provide all families with young children annual tax credits of up to $400 per year.

A majority of voters prefer ABC over an alternative plan that would give all families with young children, regardless of their working status, tax credits of up to $400 per year. When asked whether they favored ABC or the tax credit proposal after being presented with the following description, 52% preferred ABC, while only 34% favored tax credits. Significantly, non-working parents perfer ABC over tax credits by the wide margin of 60% to 35% (Table Eleven).

> "Another proposal in Congress calls for giving all families with young children -- both working and non-working families -- a tax credit of up to $400 per year. The supporters of this proposal say it is better, because it requires fewer federal funds, and because it helps all parents of young children, not just those who are working or those in lower income categories. Supporters of the ABC proposal say the real need is to expand the supply of child care services, and to help low and middle income working parents afford the child care they need. How do you feel -- are you inclined to favor the tax credit proposal or the ABC proposal we have discussed?"

7. Two-in-three voters prefer the Act For Better Child Care over a less ambitious plan that would assist fewer families and fail to set federal health or safety standards.

Voter desire for comprehensive child care assistance that includes federal health and safety guidelines is underscored by the wide margin of preference voiced for the Act For Better Child Care over a less costly plan that would offer fewer benefits than ABC. When informed that this alternative proposal would help less than one-tenth of the families that would be assisted by ABC and would not establish health and safety standards, fully 66% prefer ABC vs. 20% who favor the alternative, even though the alternative would cost one-tenth as much as ABC (Table Twelve).

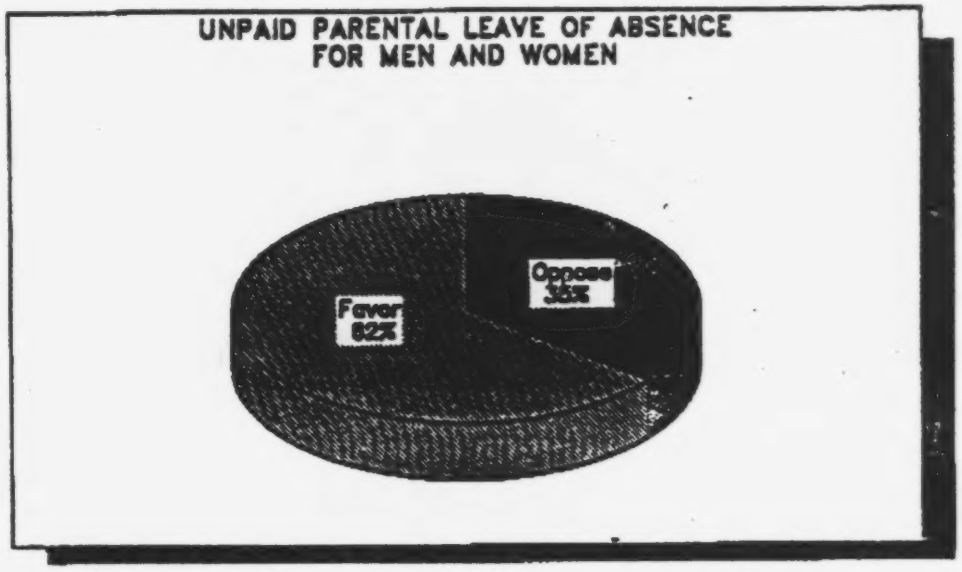


8. A majority of voters favor a proposal to require employers to permit both mothers and fathers to take up to ten weeks of optional unpaid leave from working following the birth or adoption of a child.

Sixty-two percent of all voters favor a proposal now in Congress that would guarantee parents of both genders employed by companies with more than 35 workers up to ten weeks unpaid parental leave. Only 35% are opposed to this proposal.

Parental leave receives particularly strong support among working mothers and young parents. Working mothers favor the proposal by a margin of 78% to 18%; the parents of children twelve and under favor it 71% - 26%.

The widespread appeal of parental leave is underscored by the majority (59%) of voters who favor the proposal despite not having young children of their own. Thirty-eight percent of these voters do not support optional, unpaid parental leave (Table Thirteen).



9. Two-in-three voters believe employers should maintain the same level of health insurance benefits for employees on parental leave that they provide those employees when they are working.

Sixty-six percent of all voters feel worker health insurance benefits should not be interrupted when parents obtain unpaid parental leave from their employers; just 29% believe employers should not be required to maintain the health insurance benefits for employees on parental leave.

Consistent with all of our findings for the strong levels of support child care receives from all segments of the American public, a majority of voters who are not the parents of young children believe workers on parental leave should receive full health benefits. Sixty-two percent of all respondents who are not raising young children feel that workers on leave should continue to receive full health insurance benefits, vs. 32% who believe employers should not be required to provide these benefits (Table Fourteen).

Conclusion

The results of our survey offer an undeniable mandate for enhanced child care services, and in particular the Act For Better Child Care. No matter in what context the question is posed, a strong majority of voters believe the time has come for the federal government to take action. The relevance of this issue to all Americans is underscored by the high level of support expressed by parents and non-parents alike for ABC. Support for ABC is strong among all age and socioeconomic groups; is present in every region of the country; and overrides concerns about the federal deficit. A majority of voters prefer ABC over alternative proposals, including tax credit plans and less comprehensive measures. In addition, the results show strong support for parental leave for working fathers and mothers.

Table One
Salience of Child Care As A National Issue

Next, there's been some talk recently about the need for affordable child care services for working families. Do you feel child care for working families is a very important issue, a fairly important issue or not a very important issue?

	Total	Very Imprtn	Fairly Imprtn	Not Very Imprtn
All Voters	**901**	**56%**	**30%**	**12%**
Region				
Northeast	190	59%	31%	10%
South	290	59%	31%	9%
Central	239	48%	35%	15%
West	180	60%	24%	14%
Party				
Democrat	325	69%	24%	7%
Republican	253	44%	39%	15%
Independent	253	55%	32%	12%
Race				
Black	80	84%	15%	1%
White	771	52%	33%	13%
Age				
Under 30	187	54%	37%	7%
30 to 39	198	65%	27%	7%
40 to 49	177	57%	29%	13%
50 to 64	187	50%	29%	19%
65 and Older	151	54%	30%	13%
Gender				
Male	445	50%	34%	15%
Female	456	63%	27%	8%
Socioeconomic Scale				
Very High	216	52%	33%	13%
High	194	51%	34%	14%
Middle	97	53%	31%	13%
Low	187	55%	31%	12%
Very Low	203	68%	23%	8%
Parents				
Kids 12 or Younger	253	67%	24%	9%
Kids 6 or Younger	166	68%	26%	6%
No Children	647	52%	33%	13%
Working Moms	89	85%	11%	4%
Working Families	519	58%	28%	13%
Union Household	207	58%	25%	16%

Table Two
Quality And Affordability

How easy would you say it is for parents to find child care that is both affordable and of good quality?

	Total	Total Easy	Total Diff.
All Voters	**901**	**17%**	**74%**
REGION			
Northeast	190	15%	75%
South	290	14%	77%
Central	239	22%	69%
West	180	15%	76%
PARTY			
Democrat	325	12%	80%
Republican	253	21%	70%
Independent	253	15%	75%
RACE			
Black	80	6%	89%
White	771	18%	73%
AGE			
Under 30	187	12%	82%
30 to 39	198	15%	79%
40 to 49	177	21%	74%
50 to 64	187	21%	64%
65 and Older	151	14%	70%
GENDER			
Male	445	18%	71%
Female	456	15%	77%
SOCIOECONOMIC SCALE			
Very High	216	21%	71%
High	194	17%	72%
Middle	97	8%	82%
Low	187	18%	72%
Very Low	203	14%	78%
PARENTS			
Kids 12 or Younger	253	15%	81%
Kids 6 or Younger	166	12%	83%
No Children	647	17%	72%
Working Moms	89	16%	80%
Working Families	519	17%	75%
Union Household	207	17%	74%

Table Three
Availability Of Child Care

Is it your impression that there are enough child care services in this country to provide for current needs, or that there are not currently enough child care services?

	Total	Enough	Not Enough	Not Sure
All Voters	**901**	**21%**	**63%**	**16%**
Region				
Northeast	190	22%	69%	9%
South	290	19%	60%	20%
Central	239	28%	54%	18%
West	180	16%	71%	13%
Party				
Democrat	325	17%	70%	13%
Republican	253	27%	52%	21%
Independent	253	20%	65%	15%
Race				
Black	80	18%	71%	11%
White	771	22%	61%	17%
Age				
Under 30	187	20%	65%	16%
30 to 39	198	21%	67%	11%
40 to 49	177	20%	68%	12%
50 to 64	187	26%	54%	19%
65 and Older	151	19%	59%	22%
Gender				
Male	445	25%	59%	16%
Female	456	18%	66%	16%
Socioeconomic Scale				
Very High	216	21%	63%	16%
High	194	22%	61%	17%
Middle	97	19%	68%	13%
Low	187	24%	63%	13%
Very Low	203	19%	62%	18%
Parents				
Kids 12 or Younger	253	21%	68%	11%
Kids 6 or Younger	166	20%	69%	11%
No Children	647	22%	61%	18%
Working Moms	89	17%	73%	10%
Working Families	519	24%	63%	14%
Union Household	207	22%	62%	16%

Table Four
Attitudes Toward Government Involvement In Child Care

Which viewpoint do you agree with more: The government should not help parents to pay their child care expenses, because it will only discourage them from staying at home to take care of their children -OR- Most parents work because they have to in order to make ends meet, and the government should help them by making it possible to afford quality care for their children.

	Total	Gov't Shldnt Help Parent	Gov't Should Help Parent
All Voters	**901**	**22%**	**73%**
Region			
Northeast	190	18%	79%
South	290	21%	74%
Central	239	27%	69%
West	180	22%	70%
Party			
Democrat	325	14%	83%
Republican	253	32%	59%
Independent	253	22%	75%
Race			
Black	80	10%	87%
White	771	24%	71%
Age			
Under 30	187	13%	84%
30 to 39	198	20%	75%
40 to 49	177	22%	74%
50 to 64	187	27%	68%
65 and Older	151	30%	63%
Gender			
Male	445	26%	67%
Female	456	18%	79%
Socioeconomic Scale			
Very High	216	26%	68%
High	194	23%	72%
Middle	97	30%	66%
Low	187	20%	73%
Very Low	203	14%	83%
Parents			
Kids 12 or Younger	253	16%	79%
Kids 6 or Younger	166	14%	82%
No Children	647	24%	71%
Working Moms	89	8%	90%
Working Families	519	20%	74%
Union Household	207	20%	76%

Table Five
Health And Safety Standards

Which viewpoint do you agree with more: The federal government should play no role in setting health and safety standards for child care services, but instead leave them up to the states to handle -OR- The federal government should establish minimal health and safety standards in order to protect all children in child care, regardless of where they live.

	Total	Gov't Play No Role	Gov't Should Establ Standr
All Voters.....	901	22%	75%
Region			
Northeast.....	190	13%	84%
South.....	290	23%	74%
Central.....	239	26%	69%
West.....	180	22%	76%
Party			
Democrat.....	325	17%	81%
Republican.....	253	32%	64%
Independent.....	253	20%	78%
Race			
Black.....	80	11%	89%
White.....	771	24%	74%
Age			
Under 30.....	187	13%	85%
30 to 39.....	198	16%	82%
40 to 49.....	177	24%	73%
50 to 64.....	187	35%	64%
65 and Older.....	151	21%	71%
Gender			
Male.....	445	24%	74%
Female.....	456	20%	77%
Socioeconomic Scale			
Very High.....	216	27%	71%
High.....	194	21%	78%
Middle.....	97	27%	71%
Low.....	187	23%	71%
Very Low.....	203	13%	83%
Parents			
Kids 12 or Younger.	253	19%	79%
Kids 6 or Younger..	166	16%	82%
No Children.....	647	23%	74%
Working Moms.....	89	12%	83%
Working Families...	519	22%	76%
Union Household....	207	17%	80%

Table Six
Role Of Goverment

Do you agree or disagree with this statement: Because these days most parents work at the same time they raise their families, the federal government should develop policies to help make child care services more available and affordable for these families?

	Total	Agree	Disagr	Not Sure
All Voters	**901**	**63%**	**33%**	**4%**
Region				
Northeast	190	74%	25%	1%
South	290	62%	32%	6%
Central	239	53%	43%	4%
West	180	66%	31%	3%
Party				
Democrat	325	75%	20%	6%
Republican	253	45%	52%	3%
Independent	253	65%	32%	3%
Race				
Black	80	82%	13%	4%
White	771	59%	37%	4%
Age				
Under 30	187	75%	23%	2%
30 to 39	198	69%	27%	3%
40 to 49	177	63%	35%	2%
50 to 64	187	48%	47%	5%
65 and Older	151	58%	35%	7%
Gender				
Male	445	61%	37%	1%
Female	456	64%	29%	6%
Socioeconomic Scale				
Very High	216	59%	38%	3%
High	194	57%	40%	2%
Middle	97	58%	38%	3%
Low	187	66%	31%	3%
Very Low	203	73%	20%	7%
Parents				
Kids 12 or Younger	253	72%	26%	2%
Kids 6 or Younger	166	73%	25%	2%
No Children	647	59%	36%	4%
Working Moms	89	83%	16%	1%
Working Families	519	64%	34%	2%
Union Household	207	63%	33%	4%

Table Seven
Support For The Act For Better Child Care Services

One of the child care proposals now before Congress calls for spending two-and-a-half billion dollars in order to help working families meet child care expenses, to increase the supply of child care services, and to improve the quality of existing child care services. Are you inclined to favor or oppose this proposal?

	TOTAL	Total Favor	Total Oppose
All Voters.....	901	60%	32%
REGION			
Northeast.....	190	66%	28%
South.....	290	61%	28%
Central.....	239	54%	40%
West.....	180	61%	32%
PARTY			
Democrat.....	325	70%	20%
Republican.....	253	48%	47%
Independent.....	253	60%	32%
RACE			
Black.....	80	77%	13%
White.....	771	57%	35%
AGE			
Under 30.....	187	73%	21%
30 to 39.....	198	67%	27%
40 to 49.....	177	58%	32%
50 to 64.....	187	51%	42%
65 and Older.....	151	49%	40%
GENDER			
Male.....	445	56%	36%
Female.....	456	64%	28%
INCOME			
Under $25,000.....	366	64%	29%
$25,000 to $35,000.	157	67%	28%
$35,000 to $45,000.	112	64%	28%
Over $45,000.....	166	51%	40%
SOCIOECONOMIC SCALE			
Very High.....	216	57%	34%
High.....	194	58%	33%
Middle.....	97	56%	39%
Low.....	187	61%	33%
Very Low.....	203	67%	24%
PARENTS			
Kids 12 or Younger.	253	69%	25%
Kids 6 or Younger..	166	69%	27%
No Children.....	647	57%	35%
Working Moms.....	89	84%	12%
Working Families...	519	62%	31%
Union Household....	207	59%	32%

Table Eight
Attitudes Toward Government Spending On Child Care

Which viewpoint do you agree with more: This proposal may be a good one, but in view of the federal budget deficit, the government should not spend two-and-a-half billion dollars on it -OR- The federal government should invest the money needed for this proposal, since it helps more than a million parents to work and pay their taxes, and still receive quality care for their children.

	Total	Gov't Shldnt Spend Money	Gov't Should Spend Money
All Voters.....	901	32%	64%
Region			
Northeast.....	190	27%	72%
South.....	290	29%	64%
Central.....	239	37%	60%
West.....	180	34%	63%
Party			
Democrat.....	325	21%	76%
Republican.....	253	44%	52%
Independent.....	253	32%	64%
Race			
Black.....	80	15%	82%
White.....	771	34%	62%
Age			
Under 30.....	187	23%	75%
30 to 39.....	198	27%	71%
40 to 49.....	177	27%	69%
50 to 64.....	187	43%	52%
65 and Older.....	151	39%	52%
Gender			
Male.....	445	36%	60%
Female.....	456	27%	68%
Socioeconomic Scale			
Very High.....	216	35%	62%
High.....	194	34%	62%
Middle.....	97	40%	58%
Low.....	187	30%	65%
Very Low.....	203	24%	71%
Parents			
Kids 12 or Younger.	253	24%	74%
Kids 6 or Younger..	166	24%	74%
No Children.....	647	35%	61%
Working Moms.....	89	16%	82%
Working Families...	519	31%	66%
Union Household....	207	31%	66%

Table Nine
Eligibility of Middle-Income Families For Child Care Assistance

Which viewpoint do you agree with more: The federal government should help low income working families meet their child care costs, but should not spend money to help middle income working families pay for theirs -OR- The federal government should help both low and middle income working parents pay for child care expenses.

	Total	Gov't Help Low Income	Gov't Help Low/Md Income	Neithr
All Voters	**901**	**17%**	**73%**	**9%**
Region				
Northeast	190	16%	78%	5%
South	290	17%	70%	11%
Central	239	18%	72%	8%
West	180	17%	71%	11%
Party				
Democrat	325	18%	76%	4%
Republican	253	18%	65%	15%
Independent	253	15%	76%	9%
Race				
Black	80	15%	81%	2%
White	771	18%	71%	10%
Age				
Under 30	187	10%	85%	4%
30 to 39	198	14%	78%	6%
40 to 49	177	16%	73%	9%
50 to 64	187	25%	64%	11%
65 and Older	151	21%	60%	15%
Gender				
Male	445	19%	70%	10%
Female	456	16%	75%	8%
Socioeconomic Scale				
Very High	216	21%	67%	11%
High	194	20%	69%	10%
Middle	97	16%	74%	10%
Low	187	10%	76%	11%
Very Low	203	18%	78%	3%
Parents				
Kids 12 or Younger	253	14%	78%	7%
Kids 6 or Younger	166	12%	83%	5%
No Children	647	18%	71%	9%
Working Moms	89	12%	83%	3%
Working Families	519	16%	74%	9%
Union Household	207	17%	73%	8%

Table Ten
Reactions To Certain Aspects Of ABC

Next, I am going to read several different parts of this federal child care proposal, which is known as ABC, the Act For B etter Child Care Services. For each item I mention, I would like you to use a ten point scale to indicate whether you strongly support that element of the proposal, or whether you have some reservations about it. If you strongly support the item choose a number closer to ten; if you have reservations about a particular element of the proposal, select a number closer to one.

	Mean	Rsrvtns (1 - 3)	(4 - 7)	Strgly Supp. (8 - 10)
The bill would set minimal standards for health, safety and quality so that children would be safe and well cared for	8.13	8%	16	75
Under this bill, parents receiving assistance would be free to choose the child care services they prefer -- in schools, in churches, in homes, in centers or other locations -- so long as the care is safe and of good quality	7.99	10%	17	72
Under the proposal, states must provide informational assistance to child care consumers, helping them to locate suitable child care services	7.55	9%	29	61
The bill would reserve some funds for the recruitment and on-the-job training of qualified child care workers	7.54	11%	25	63
The bill also provides funds so that states can expand public preschool programs to include full-day, year -round child care services	7.18	15%	26	58
A sliding scale would be used in providing financial help to families, so that the lower a family's income the higher the amount of assistance they would be eligible to receive	7.12	15%	28	56
Both low and middle income families would qualify for financial help under this proposal	7.00	17%	27	55
This bill would increase the supply of child care services by providing low interest loans and grants for this purpose	6.40	18%	36	44
Most of the money spent under this proposal would go directly to working families to help them pay for a portion of their child care expenses	6.06	25%	31	42

Table 10-A
Freedom Of Choice

Under this bill, parents receiving assistance would be free to choose the child care services they prefer -- in schools, in churches, in homes, in centers or other locations -- so long as the care is safe and of good quality.

	Total	Rsrvtn (1-3)	(4-7)	Strngl Supprt (8-10)	Mean
All Voters	**901**	**10%**	**17%**	**72%**	**7.99**
REGION					
Northeast	190	5%	18%	76%	8.42
South	290	9%	15%	75%	8.11
Central	239	13%	21%	66%	7.54
West	180	10%	15%	74%	7.96
PARTY					
Democrat	325	5%	15%	79%	8.39
Republican	253	14%	17%	68%	7.66
Independent	253	9%	20%	70%	7.95
RACE					
Black	80	2%	10%	87%	8.97
White	771	10%	18%	70%	7.86
AGE					
Under 30	187	3%	18%	79%	8.56
30 to 39	198	8%	17%	74%	8.16
40 to 49	177	9%	17%	73%	7.98
50 to 64	187	18%	17%	65%	7.37
65 and Older	151	10%	17%	69%	7.82
GENDER					
Male	445	12%	19%	69%	7.75
Female	456	8%	16%	76%	8.22
SOCIOECONOMIC SCALE					
Very High	216	10%	21%	68%	7.82
High	194	12%	19%	69%	7.72
Middle	97	12%	19%	69%	7.76
Low	187	10%	11%	78%	8.14
Very Low	203	5%	17%	76%	8.38
PARENTS					
Kids 12 or Younger	253	6%	14%	80%	8.47
Kids 6 or Younger	166	6%	13%	81%	8.54
Working Moms	89	4%	9%	87%	8.85
Working Families	519	10%	18%	71%	7.96
Union Household	207	11%	17%	72%	7.93

Table Eleven
ABC vs. Tax Credit Plan

Next, another proposal in Congress calls for giving all families with young children -- both working and non-working families -- a tax credit of up to $400 per year. The supporters of this proposal say it is better, because it requires fewer federal funds, and because it helps all parents of young children, not just those who are working or those in lower income categories. Supporters of the ABC proposal say the real need is to expand the supply of child care services, and to help low and middle income working parents afford the child care they need. How do you feel -- are you inclined to favor the tax credit proposal or the ABC proposal we have discussed? (IF BOTH:) Which do you favor more?

	Total	Tax Credit	ABC Plan	Neithr	Both Equal
All Voters.....	901	34%	52%	5%	2%
Region					
Northeast.....	190	35%	52%	4%	5%
South.....	290	37%	51%	4%	2%
Central.....	239	31%	54%	7%	2%
West.....	180	34%	52%	7%	2%
Party					
Democrat.....	325	28%	58%	2%	3%
Republican.....	253	45%	43%	7%	1%
Independent.....	253	34%	54%	6%	2%
Race					
Black.....	80	22%	65%	1%	7%
White.....	771	36%	50%	6%	2%
Age					
Under 30.....	187	27%	65%	3%	3%
30 to 39.....	198	38%	51%	4%	2%
40 to 49.....	177	29%	58%	7%	2%
50 to 64.....	187	40%	44%	8%	2%
65 and Older.....	151	39%	41%	6%	2%
Gender					
Male.....	445	39%	48%	6%	3%
Female.....	456	30%	56%	5%	2%
Socioeconomic Scale					
Very High.....	216	38%	47%	9%	3%
High.....	194	33%	57%	6%	*
Middle.....	97	42%	45%	7%	3%
Low.....	187	35%	53%	4%	1%
Very Low.....	203	28%	56%	3%	3%
Parents					
Kids 12 or Younger.	253	34%	56%	4%	3%
Kids 6 or Younger..	166	35%	57%	1%	5%
No Children.....	647	35%	51%	6%	2%
Working Moms.....	89	20%	70%	2%	2%
Working Families...	519	33%	53%	6%	3%
Union Household....	207	32%	51%	6%	5%

Table Twelve
ABC vs. Less Expensive Plan

Another proposal being considered would cost only about one-tenth as much as the ABC proposal, but would help less than one-tenth of the families helped by ABC, and would do nothing to set health or safety standards for child care facilities. Based on this information would you be inclined to prefer the ABC child care proposal or the more limited and less expensive proposal?

	Total	Limitd Less Expnsv Plan	ABC Plan	Neithr
All Voters.....	901	20%	66%	7%
Region				
Northeast.....	190	16%	73%	4%
South.....	290	21%	68%	7%
Central.....	239	26%	58%	8%
West.....	180	17%	67%	8%
Party				
Democrat.....	325	21%	72%	1%
Republican.....	253	22%	59%	13%
Independent.....	253	18%	70%	5%
Race				
Black.....	80	18%	78%	-
White.....	771	21%	64%	8%
Age				
Under 30.....	187	15%	76%	2%
30 to 39.....	198	14%	72%	6%
40 to 49.....	177	19%	73%	7%
50 to 64.....	187	27%	58%	10%
65 and Older.....	151	31%	48%	10%
Gender				
Male.....	445	23%	63%	8%
Female.....	456	18%	69%	6%
Socioeconomic Scale				
Very High.....	216	16%	67%	11%
High.....	194	19%	68%	8%
Middle.....	97	17%	67%	10%
Low.....	187	24%	68%	5%
Very Low.....	203	25%	62%	2%
Parents				
Kids 12 or Younger.	253	10%	78%	6%
Kids 6 or Younger..	166	9%	81%	4%
No Children.....	647	24%	62%	7%
Working Moms.....	89	5%	87%	5%
Working Families...	519	19%	69%	8%
Union Household....	207	22%	70%	5%

Table Thirteen
Parental Leave

On another topic there is a proposal in Congress now to require all companies that employ more than 35 people to permit both fathers and mothers to take up to ten weeks of optional unpaid leave from work following the birth or adoption of a child. Are you inclined to favor or oppose this proposal?

	Total	Total Favor	Total Oppose
All Voters	**901**	**62%**	**35%**
Region			
Northeast	190	68%	28%
South	290	61%	37%
Central	239	62%	36%
West	180	59%	37%
Party			
Democrat	325	67%	30%
Republican	253	52%	44%
Independent	253	63%	34%
Race			
Black	80	62%	35%
White	771	62%	35%
Age			
Under 30	187	70%	27%
30 to 39	198	75%	21%
40 to 49	177	65%	33%
50 to 64	187	55%	42%
65 and Older	151	42%	54%
Gender			
Male	445	58%	39%
Female	456	66%	30%
Socioeconomic Scale			
Very High	216	64%	33%
High	194	63%	33%
Middle	97	59%	37%
Low	187	58%	39%
Very Low	203	66%	33%
Parents			
Kids 12 or Younger	253	71%	26%
Kids 6 or Younger	166	74%	24%
No Children	647	59%	38%
Working Moms	89	78%	18%
Working Families	519	66%	31%
Union Household	207	67%	31%

Table Fourteen
Health Insurance Benefits For Workers On Parental Leave

The proposal requires these companies to maintain the same level of health insurance benefits for employees on parental leave that they provide to those employees when they are working. Some small businesses complain that this requirement is too expensive and say they should not have to maintain health benefits at the same level while an employee is on leave. What do you think -- should companies be required to maintain the same level of health insurance benefits for their employees who are on parental leave, or shouldn't they be required to do so?

	Total	Should Be Requrd	Shldnt Be Requrd	Not Sure
All Voters.....	901	66%	29%	6%
Region				
Northeast.....	190	62%	30%	9%
South.....	290	65%	30%	5%
Central.....	239	68%	29%	3%
West.....	180	68%	25%	7%
Party				
Democrat.....	325	73%	23%	5%
Republican.....	253	58%	38%	4%
Independent.....	253	65%	27%	8%
Race				
Black.....	80	79%	17%	4%
White.....	771	64%	30%	6%
Age				
Under 30.....	187	72%	23%	5%
30 to 39.....	198	73%	20%	7%
40 to 49.....	177	68%	29%	2%
50 to 64.....	187	62%	30%	8%
65 and Older.....	151	49%	44%	7%
Gender				
Male.....	445	61%	34%	5%
Female.....	456	70%	24%	6%
Socioeconomic Scale				
Very High.....	216	65%	31%	4%
High.....	194	65%	27%	8%
Middle.....	97	66%	29%	5%
Low.....	187	65%	30%	5%
Very Low.....	203	66%	27%	7%
Parents				
Kids 12 or Younger.	253	73%	21%	6%
Kids 6 or Younger..	166	76%	20%	4%
No Children.....	647	62%	32%	6%
Working Moms.....	89	81%	12%	7%
Working Families...	519	68%	27%	5%
Union Household....	207	72%	24%	5%